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MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS IN IRAN

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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FBIS DAILY REPORT

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DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. RELATIONS, HOSTAGES

Beheshti Remarks

LD261801 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1656 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to PARS NEWS AGENCY, Dr Hoseyn Beheshti [words indistinct] the president of the country's Supreme Court and a member of the Revolution Council, attended a press conference with domestic and foreign reporters today. [read by announcer]

In reply to the question [words indistinct] will he ask Anwar as-Sadat for the extradition of the deposed shah, Dr Beheshti said; We have so far done nothing about this, but the issue is, at present, under review.

One of the reporters asked: Since Iran has no diplomatic relations with Egypt, which countries in your opinion could help Iran in this matter? Dr Beheshti replied: First of all, we should decide what course As-Sadat and the Egyptian regime will take in connection with Iran.

A reporter asked: Will the PLO be able to help Iran regarding the extradition of the deposed shah?

Dr Beheshti replied: Not in that sense.

Another reporter asked: How are Iran's relations with the PLO?

Dr Behshti said: Very good and very friendly.

The same reporter asked: Have any changes evolved in Iran's policy regarding the issue of the deposed shah and the hostages since the arrival of the deposed shah in Egypt?

Dr Beheshti replied: To some extent.

The same reporter asked: Could you expand on this, please?

Dr Beheshti said: We had created the opportunity to end the status quo, with Panama's help. Now, we should possibly adopt a new policy. The situation has changed in this respect.

Another reporter asked: Has the Revolution Council reached a decision on this issue, and will you be personally present at these talks?

Dr Beheshti said: Yes.

In reply to a question by another reporter who asked: Our understanding of democracy is that the majority decides, and so a majority decision would be legal. But if such a decision of the majority contradicts Islamic precepts, what will happen? Dr Beheshti said: The Islamic system holds that all decisions should be based on Islamic principles. This has been allowed for in the constitution, and the Council of Guardians is dutybound to supervise the conformity of Majles decisions with Islamic precepts and the constitution.

In reply to the question of another reporter who asked: Might not the possibility of difficulties arise, in view of the equal authority of differing opinions in Islam?, Dr Beheshti said: For this purpose we have the Council of Guardians, which consists of legal experts and jurisprudents who will decide on this matter.

A reporter said: We conclude that only the jurisprudents decide, not the politicians.

Dr Beheshti replied: No, the responsibility of the Council of Guardians does not concern the political considerations in pieces of legislation. It solely concerns their conformity, or nonconformity, with Islamic principles and the constitution.

Denunciation of As-Sadat, Zionists

LD270520 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0340 GMT 27 Mar 80 LD

[From the "On the Sidelines of the News" program of the central news bureau research department]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings listeners. We begin the first program of the on the sidelines of the news series this year with a comment on the intentions of American Zionists and Anwar as-Sadat in moving the deposed shah.

The moving of the deposed shah from Panama to Egypt, which took place 2 days ago, once again demonstrated the subservience of As-Sadat to the Zionist politicians in America. This move took place at a time when the American Zionists are trying to divert the attention of the people away from the issue of the new Jewish settlements in Israel, to the question of the shah; so that under this cover Israel can continue her aggressive policies.

The presence of the shah in Egypt comes about at a time when the influential Jews in America are criticizing the American Government's position in the United Nations in condemning Israel for the establishment of new settlements and are forcing that government to withdraw her vote. Under these conditions, the pro As-Sadat Zionists led by Henry Kissinger are trying to get new concessions from the American Congress, apparently for Egypt, but in reality for the sake of the expansion of their domination in the region. It is pecisely within this context that As-Sadat has renewed his invitation to the deposed shah to go to Egypt. As-Sadat is hoping to save the bankrupt Egyptian economy by means of the shah's investments in Egypt, the investment of a fortune which the shah has accumulated through 37 years of tyrannical rule. At the same time, the presence of the shah in Egypt enables As-Sadat to attribute any discontent among the Egyptian people to the interference of a foreign country, precisely the interference of the Iranian Government; and to expand his police apparatus under this cover and to severely crush his opponents.

On the other hand, with the presence of the shah in Egypt, public opinion will be distracted, even if it is for a short time, from the Palestinian issue to the question of the American hostages and the propaganda war between Cairo and Tehran. This will provide an opportunity for As-Sadat to gain greater concessions from Israel and America for his own interests during his visit to Washington, which will take place next month. Attracting financial assistance of the influential Zionists and American capitalists to Egypt is another goal that As-Sadat is pursuing.

At a time when Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, has openly said that Iran's Revolution will be exported to all the corners of the world, America's Zionist politicians wish to hatch plots against Iran and the Islamic Revolution of Iran through sending the traitorous shah to Egypt and, with the assistance of the Zionists and the SAVAK agents who have fled to Egypt, carry out their vile policies through their local agents and also through their protege governments in the region, like Iraq, and prevent Iran form achieving political stability and engaging in the economic and social reconstruction of the country.

However, the valiant and alert people of Iran have demonstrated during the past year that they are determined to continue their struggle until the roots of imperialism have been completely eradicated from Iran and to cut off the hand of America not only from Iran but also from the oppressed people of the region.

As the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy have announced, it makes no difference to us in which American colony the shah is being kept. In our view and in the view of our nation, it is the criminal America which has supported the shah and which continues to do so. America should know that the Iranian nation will not rest until the extradition of the deposed shah and the return of his plundered wealth to Iran and his trial, which is, in fact, the trial of American imperialism. The White House security adviser should also refrain from giving lessons on Islam to Muslims. It is true that, as he has asserted, hospitality is a humane and Islamic trait. However, in Islam, there also is punishment and a time for reckoning. To support a person whose crimes are evident and are known by everyone is an inhumane and anti-Islamic action which will not be regarded as an Islamic duty by any Muslim, except for the American variety of which As-Sadat is a good example.

Revolution Council on Shah

LD262104 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1941 GMT 26 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Revolution Council tonight met in session to discuss outstanding issues of the realm. According to a PARS NEWS AGENCY correspondent's dispatch, Sadeq Qotbzadeh, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, spoke at the end of the session. He said: During tonight's session important issues of the realm, the flight of the deposed shah to Egypt and Iran's stance regarding this event were subjects of study and discussions. Continuing, Qotbzadeh said: The Revolution Council has postponed the rest of its discussions till its session tomorrow. He also said: During tonight's session the issue of the hostages, too, was discussed, but in this connection no final decision was taken. Sadeq Qotbzadeh then said: Iran's official statement pertaining to the deposed shah's flight to Egypt will probably be published tomorrow.

Pertaining to the date for holding the second phase of the elections to the Consultative Assembly he told the PARS NEWS AGENCY correspondent: A comission has been delegated by the Revolution Council to investigate infringements in the course of the elections. This commission has been given 1 month to investigate these infringements and once it reports on its work the date of the second phase of the elections will be specified.

According to a PARS NEWS AGENCY report the spokesman of the Revolution Council, at the conclusion of tonight's extraordinary session, said: During this session the subject of the deposed shah's flight was put forward and the results and outcome of his flight were studied and discussed. He added: The deposed shah's flight has three different aspects: The first of these is from the standpoint of the United States, which in itself is the best example of U.S. interference in issues connected with Iran and in international questions. If the international investigatory commission on U.S. interference in Iran and on the crimes of the deposed shah needed further new evidence, then this would have been the best proof for the benefit of the commission; the second is connected with Panama, whereby that country, contrary to its laws, permitted the traitor Mohammad Reza to leave Panama. And finally there is the issue of the dossier of the deposed shah. If the dossier collected on him were not convincing and substantiated then he would most certainly present himself at court with the hope of being acquitted, but our documents were so damning that he was forced, with the help of others, to take flight.

He then said: In connection with the issue of the flight of the deposed shah the problem of the hostages and their transfer will be put forward. The transfer of the hostages was one of the conditions whereby the Panamanian Government demanded that Iran change its position as a mark of good will and to prove that the hostages were alive and well. This issue was under discussion when Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was in Panama, but after the flight of the traitor shah the issue is no longer under consideration in this form--neither taking delivery of the hostages nor taking control of the embassy.

The Revolution Council spokesman then announced the following about the second round of the elections: Since yesterday a seven-man commission has been investigating complaints concerning election violations. It has one month's grace to make a report on the results of it's work. Once this report is announced the second phase of the elections will be carried out.

Commentary on Shah's Move

JN261913 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1755 GMT 26 Mar 80 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] A few days ago, the Panamanian Government asked the Islamic revolution government to submit the convicting documents on the deposed shah so he could be handed over to court. Accordingly, the Islamic government submitted some documents on this case to the Panamanian Government. But, not unexpectedly, the outcast shah ran away from Panama and went to As-Sadat. President as-Sadat received him and hand in hand they wander Egypt. Thus far every part of the story seems ordinary.

We wonder if the case is one of escape as claimed by the United States. We then ask why from Panama to Egypt and under the present circumstances? Why this warm welcome by As-Sadat and his government? Is it the generosity of Arab hospitality or the gentleness of Islamic manners as represented in his excellency the faithful president?

In fact, the Islamic leadership and our believing masses are aware of the exposed game that is played behind the scenes. At the time the handover of the traitor Pahlavi to the Islamic justice court by the Government of Panama, which has always been a U.S. colony, was definite, the U.S. administration came face to face with the fact that the criminal would be handed over to his people for punishment, something which would make U.S. agents lose all their confidence in the United States. In order to avoid this critical situation, the United States had to resort to a solution as the only way out. But the question is why to Egypt? Why did the choice not fall on Morocco or any other state that has opened its gates to this man who sows corruption on earth? The answer is crystal clear.

The Middle East region abounds with contradictions and is perched on a volcano that heralds the promised day. The Zionist-As-Sadat fraternity has reached its climax at a time all concerned parties have become spectators. The deposed Pahlavi's coming to Egypt was an urgent U.S. need to crystallize the issue of complete elimination of the Palestinian cause, the public and official recognition of the complete usurpation of the displaced Palestinian people's rights and the recognition of the state of Israel through planning by imperialism and the approval of the reactionary quarters in the region.

Choosing Egypt as a seventh refuge for the escape of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi from the justice of the Islamic grip is due to the fact that Egypt is now considered the place where world imperialism can give back to the deposed shah some confidence in him by means of programming plans and plots against the Islamic revolution from a near place and a safe one for him like Egypt. Moreover, choosing Egypt as a resting station for treason is not only aimed against the Palestinian issue and plotting against the revolution, but also aimed at cooperating with As-Sadat and the reactionary regimes in implementing the imperialist and Zionist schemes to eliminate the Islamic movement witnessed by the Islamic countries today.

Despite all this, the U.S. administration is still haughty and follows the belief that the Islamic peoples will accept its justifications when it says the deposed shah fled to Egypt without its knowledge. Now that a great Islamic eruption and an escalating Islamic political awareness have taken place, do the United States and the superpowers believe that the Muslim and oppressed masses of the world will be taken in by their games? The Muslim peoples sum up their revolution and define their firm strategy in one phrase: No to the East, no to the West and no to international games. Yes to God, justice and freedom.

Finally, our Muslim people in Iran, under their prudent leadership, will not stop at confronting and foiling plots, but will destroy all oppressive forces in earth from the East to the West. What is the Islamic peoples' stand on this ongoing conflict between atheism and Islam? The answer was given by almighty God in his holy book: Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power including steeds of war to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies of God and your enemies.

All the Islamic peoples everywhere should be armed with Islamic genuinity and the holy jihad awareness. They should commence to take the traitor rulers to task and eradicate the agents of colonialism who rule our countries once in the name of Islam, another in the name of progressiveness and yet a third time in the name of democracy. These agents should be wiped out from our Islamic countries.

God, be blessed His name, has made a basic condition for revolution and change when he said: Verily, never will God change the condition of a people until they change it themselves with their own souls. He has also promised us with the inevitability of victory along the path of jihad when He said: God has decreed "It is I and My apostles who must prevail." In another verse He said: If ye will aid the cause of God He will aid you and plant your feet firmly.

QOTBZADEH INTERVIEWED ON SHAH, OTHER ISSUES

LD252045 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1744 GMT 25 Mar 80 LD

[Interview with Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh on Iranian television by unidentified correspondent on 25 March--recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] As you know, the deposed shah of Iran has left Panama [words indistinct]. This came precisely at a time when Iran's lawyers were about to submit a request for the extradition of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to Panamanian officials. We have invited Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh, our country's foreign minister, and he is now in the studio. I would like to ask you, in light of the fact that the deposed shah of Iran was under detention in Panama and the fact that the Iranian Government was about to submit certain documents to the Panamanian Government, how was it that he was able to leave Panama?

[Qotbzadeh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would explain some aspects of the efforts made in this regard [words indistinct]. At the time, when the shah had gone to Panama and there were discussions as to how to bring him back to Iran, some held the view that we should wait until the shah was returned to us without regard to any international options that might exist. (?My view), however, was the opposite, namely, that we should do everything from the judicial, legal and political standpoints and [words indistinct] international, so as to see to it that we might at least insure that we did not lose anything whatever the turn of events, or else score a victory. And this is the basis of the government's foreign policy.

On this basis we proceeded to take certain political measures and to exert pressure, bearing in mind that we were aware of certain facts. (?One of the things we knew) was that all the shah's assets--or a major part of them--(?are not inside) America, (?but) in European banks, most of which are under David Rockefeller, the criminal American capitalist. [passage indistinct] and the deposed shah does not want [words indistinct]. And from the standpoint of international law, [words indistinct]. Consequently, Kissinger contacted Mr Royo, the Panamanian president, and, thanks to the pressure exerted there, Royo eventually issued an invitation to the deposed shah. And it was on the strength of that invitation that the deposed shah (?went to) Panama. [passage indistinct]

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] We did not take any action because (?if we wanted to accept this as a fact), we would have had to say that he was a guest there. We did not want to say he was a guest there. We wanted to say that he had gone there under pressure and that we now want him for something. We also exerted political pressure from all directions, which resulted in securing for ourselves a legal right to apply for e[illegible]radiction from Panama.

This concerned the legal aspect of the matter. It was our right to do this. The Panamanian Government [words indistinct]. On one hand Panama had sent an invitation to the shah, and on the other hand, it had to reply to our request according to its judicial regulations. The reply they supplied to us was that "we are keeping him under guard," and that under Panamanian law you have 60 days to submit your documents to us.

There was an interesting point here, namely, that when the matter of 60 days was raised, it meant the sort of 60 days that was acceptable to Panama, following his arrest, that is to say that they would have arrested him according to the laws of Panama. [sentence as heard] They used the phrase "under guard."

Without getting into this [word indistinct] argument, we tried to act on the question of 60 days. All those who were involved in this matter said this would be impossible, particularly since documents had to be completed, analyzed and then translated into English only to be translated later into Spanish. And we did not have [words indistinct] Spanish translator (?ourselves). I should thank our friends [words indistinct] who (?worked hard) [words indistinct] in the Foreign Ministry who worked very hard in this connection.

In the end we were able to collect and prepare enough documents to condemn the deposed shah, and our documents were ready in Panama last Saturday, that is one day before the deadline which was last Sunday. Since Friday, the parties concerned were aware of the fact that the documents were ready. Kissinger then left America for Panama. [passage indistinct] 21 famous lawyers and Kissinger contacted the firm of Morgan and Morgan which acts on behalf of Rockefeller in Panama. On the other hand we had only one Panamanian lawyer--who was extremely sharp--one French lawyer and one Argentinian. And that was all. When we prepared the documents they realized that [words indistinct].

At the same time (?they) were in touch with the traitorous Anwar as-Sadat. There was also an Egyptian plane at [word indistinct] airport ready to fly to Panama, with permission from Panama [words indistinct]. I have been in touch with developments day and night since Friday [words indistinct]. Although there was a 10-hour different between here and there, we were nevertheless in touch day and night. Meanwhile, there was a difference of opinion among the doctors there relating to an operation on the deposed shah.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Now, it was clear to us. We were in close contact all the time. We were exerting pressure from our side as well. We brought every kind of pressure we could to bear. But, of course, there is a limit to the amount of pressure we could bring to bear. On the other hand, the American Government itself... [incomplete sentence as heard]

Our action does not mean [words indistinct] for in Panama itself there are two factions, one faction supporting the democrats and another supporting the republicans. The republicans [word indistinct]. However, they had done one thing, namely, that they portrayed the hostages in an unfavorable condition, and consequently they had provoked an extremely intense public opinion in Panama. They had undoubtedly spent a large amount of money [words indistinct] that Iran would not be able in any way to present its documents in time. There was this sort of propaganda as well.

As I said, our plan was that no matter how events turned out to develop it would be in our favor. So, it came to the point that despite having 21 lawyers and [words indistinct] power behind the deposed shah, they had reached the point where they realized they had no alternative other than having to arrest the shah once the documents were submitted to the Panamanian authorities.

When it came to this, they realized that they had to make a move. At any rate, aware of all this, we were busy with our effort day and night. [Words indistinct] Panama told us that you should at least make a gesture regarding the hostages to enable us to take advantage, at least to some extent, of some propaganda to counter our domestic public opinion in order to help us prevent the deposed shah from leaving.

This reached me on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning I was received by [word indistinct--presumably Khomeyni]. I communicated the matter. I said we have to do something anyway. [words indistinct]. He did not offer any direct view on the matter, and he said he would wait before giving his answer.

I later spoke to Ahmad Khomeyni. He said if it is absolutely necessary, I ought to do something. I said that in my view we must do something if we want to keep the deposed shah there. He said we might be able to do something in this regard. But I said we must come up with an answer by tonight, because the National Guards there. [incomplete sentence as heard] We decided that if we were able to do something about the hostages within 24 hours--in such a way as to give the Panamanian authorities something to go on--the shah could be prevented from leaving Panama, otherwise they could do nothing because of the pressure of public opinion.

I went to see Bani-Sadr at 2000 and remained with him until midnight. Throughout this period we were in touch with every development, minute by minute. Of course, there was a grave doubt in my mind, namely, that they might be up to some tricks. So we were careful--we would not be tricked in that way, either. At any rate, it was necessary for us to do something regarding the hostages, which we failed to do. [passage indistinct]

So it was about 2100 or 2130 at night when Haj Ahmad Khomeyni spoke with Mr Bani-Sadr, and we still had reached no result. [passage indistinct] so it was about 0100 that we learned about the shah's departure.

Once we learned of this situation, in order to remove any excuses, in a telephone interview with correspondents at 0230, it was announced that if [words indistinct] they would arrest the deposed shah and return him to Panama [words indistinct]. This was in fact in order to remove all the excuses [words indistinct] so we would not be tricked, while at the same time, to indicate that if this is what you really want then we accept it. [passage indistinct] There was still the possibility of bringing him back from the Portuguese Azores. [passage indistinct] Consequently, he took off for Egypt. This is a fact. [passage indistinct]

So 24 hours before he was to be completely [words indistinct] and condemned. This was proved to us and became a great moral victory. In other words, whatever they did would not harm us in that sense. [Words indistinct] naturally we [words indistinct] if we could arrest him there. Now that he has gone, we are morally unblemished, and the world has now realized that [words indistinct].

The Panamanian public has now realized this. All the newspapers have raised the matter and a domestic clamor has started in Panama. One point I should make here is that the Panamanian president and the Panamanian Government have gone against their own laws by allowing the shah to leave. For if he was there the deposed shah should have been under arrest according to Panamanian laws. [passage indistinct] We shall continue the process of extradition efforts [words indistinct].

[Question] We received a report [words indistinct] that Kurt Waldheim, the UN secretary general, expressed the view on Monday that the unexpected departure of the former shah of Iran for Egypt has further complicated the current efforts made to resolve the issue of hostages. [passage indistinct]

[Answer] This report has not reached us of course and [words indistinct] news agenices. [passage indistinct]

[Question] Mr Qotbzadeh, what will Iran's reaction be now that the shah had gone to Egypt from Panama?

[Answer] One thing that is interesting is that [words indistinct] no one has accepted this criminal, not even South Africa. There were efforts [words indistinct] in South Africa [words indistinct]. Even the criminal Zionist Israel has not accepted him. And the only place that Kissinger was able to [words indistinct] through his connection with Anwar as-Sadat.

There is one point here, namely that once we have dispendsed with slogans--I do not pay much attention to the slogan that Egypt will disintegrate. [passage indistinct] They are both the same, from the standpoint of criminality and treachery. Egypt should move somehow, and we should have a perfectly clear and decisive policy with regard to our relations with the Arab countries. I intend, as a matter of act, to raise this matter at the Revolution Council session tonight and submit a report in this regard. [words indistinct] to enable us to take advantage of this opportunity, see the hand of God in all this, and to take advantage of the opportunity so that the demestic development in Egypt also (?undergoes a change).

[Question] Mr Qotbzadeh, the deposed shah is in Egypt, and in light of the fact that Anwar as-Sadat has said that he can remain in Egypt permanently, the question arises that, of course, we do not have any kind of diplomatic or other relations with the Egyptian Goverrment. Could you tell us what will happen to efforts to extradite the shah?

[Answer] [Word indistinct] we shall continue the extradition procedures in Panama in order to obtain an extradition order. In Egypt [words indistinct]. We wanted to prove to the world that (?if it is a judicial issue we shall proceed in this direction).

If it is a political issue [words indistinct]. If it is a matter of exerting pressure and power, we are prepared for that as well. [passage indistinct] This should be done through exerting intense pressure and making the Egyptian nation aware and consequently creating internal political excitements at whatever cost [words indistinct].

[Question] In connection with the departure of the traitorous shah, I would like to ask you what is going to happen to the question of the investigation by the UN commission and the issue of the hostages.

[Answer] The commission's investigation will continue [words indistinct] there are certain documents [words indistinct] relating to the former U.S. Embassy, which we have not received yet. These documents should be made available as well, so that we may be able to compile them and so that, consequently, the commission will be able to pronounce its views. [words indistinct] so that we are able to clarify the matter from the commission's standpoint as well. [passage indistinct] At any rate the commission will do what is entrusted to do.

[Question] Apart from the matters raised here regarding the traitorous shah, there is also the issue of Afghanistan in the world today--something which was mentioned in the imam's message on the occasion of the new year. [words indistinct] could you tell us what Iran has done in this regard?

[Answer] [passage indistinct] (?What is happening) in the region is something we cannot accept. Soviet Russia took advantage of the Iranian issue and sent its troops to Afghanistan. America took advantage of the Iran and Afghanistan issues and it brought its fleet to the Persian Gulf and the Hormuz Straits and the (?Indian Ocean). [sentence indistinct] This is not acceptable to us. For this reason, we have reached an agreement with the Russians on a multilateral negotiation at our own initiative--between Iran and Russia, between Iran and Afghanistan, between Iran and the revolutionary forces and organizations of Afghanistan [words indistinct] and probably between Iran and Pakistan and China, which are Afghanistan's neighbors.

We are insisting on the following:

1. That the Soviet troops should be withdrawn from Afghanistan;

2. That Afghanistan's independence, territorial integrity and also its neutrality be guaranteed (?by) its neighbors;

3. That the system of government of Afghanistan should be a matter exclusively for the people of Afghanistan. [Words indistinct] that is to say, if they want an Islamic government, then they should have that. If (?they want a socialist) government [words indistinct].

The point is that they should be able to elect their government freely. The principle on the basis of which negotiations should take place has been evetually agreed by the Soviet Union. And this is a complete victory for Iran's diplomacy. I have proposed this to the Revolutionary Council. The council is debating whether any visits should take place, but the principle of the matter has been agreed upon.

I believe, however, that certain trips should take place. We must go to Russia. We must go to Afghanistan. We must go to Pakistan. We should hold talks with revolutionary movements here. Afterwards, we should [words indistinct]. So, we should eventually resolve the issue, as the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan will enable us to direct our [word indistinct] 100 hundred percent on the military presence of America in the Persian Gulf region and the Indian Ocean; for they are expanding their presence here day by day and creating a serious danger to us here.

So, you will see that despite all the domestic problems [words indistinct] we have been able to do certain things in this field. I should make a point here that despite all the cowardly attacks [words indistinct] we have been able to move ahead with full independence and decisiveness. And I have the initiave.

But this policy will not succeed until the domestic forces truly unite, work together with real interest, have an understanding and realize that all the things we are doing are in the interests of Islam and Iran [words indistinct] and are based on the actual and intellectual principles of our dear imam. [sentence indistinct]

[Question] Thank you. We hope that with the efforts made by Iran the deposed shah will be brought back to Iran and to be punished for his deeds, which are clear to everyone.

[Answer] At any rate, the deposed shah will either have to return to Iran or die. There is no other way.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Explosion on Saddam Husayn's Plane

JN270823 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 Mar 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] In a report on the situation in Iraq, the paper AZARBAYJAN cites several events that reflect the extent of the disturbances, chaos and apprehension prevailing in Saddam Husayn's regime now that opposition to his dictatorial regime has expanded.

A Kordestan United Socialist Party spokesman said that several officers put a message of warning on Saddam's desk, including a warning of death should he insist on continuing his oppressive practices. The Ba'thist regime leader's plane exploded 15 minutes before its take-off from Kirkuk.

The spokesman also reviewed recent clashes between the Ba'thist government forces and several Peshmerga. The Kurdish revolutionaries used RPG's and handgrenades in shelling two camps belonging to the Ba'thist regime forces in the region of (Qomkan). The attackers seized various arms, including Kalashnikov guns.

The spokesman added that a Kurdish revolutionary called Sadir Muhammad 'Ali managed to kill four Ba'thists in the city of Seyyed (Sadeq) during a clash between the revolutionaries and the government forces.

Afghan Gas Sales to USSR

ID261946 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Mar 80 ID

[Text] Here is a commentary on Afghanistan's gas sales to the USSR: Kabul Radio yesterday reported that the volume of Afghanistan's gas exports to the USSR in 1980 will be 30 times greater than in 1979. According to the report, Afghanistan exported 82 million cubic meters of gas last year and will export 2,325 million cubic meters this year, an increase of about 30 times.

Kabul Radio also announced that the Afghan Government will receive some $200 million for its entire gas exports to the USSR in the current year, from which a rough calculation shows the price of the gas to be $80 per 1,000 cubic meters. This figure indicates that, since the world price of gas is about $160 per 1,000 cubic meters, the Government of Afghanistan is giving a discount of 50 percent of normal world prices to its best customer so as to demonstrate the existence of most-favored-nation relations between the Governments of Afghanistan and the USSR and to somehow repay the Russians for the cost of their 70,000-strong military expedition to Afghanistan; since this military expedition obviously arrived at the request of the Afghan Government then it has no option but to share in its costs.

However, in this transaction the nation itself has not been taken into consideration and in fact it is the Afghan nation which must put up with both the stick and the bruises. In other words, the putschists who imposed themselves as the guardians of the people are giving away the country's natural wealth for a mere pittance so that Russian arms and troops can take their toll of the people's lives and then they refer to this deed as defense of the nation's interests.

Indeed, in this world of ours even the meanings of words are changed at the whim of the superpowers and the meaning of "safeguarding security" in the Russian dictionary is interpreted as rape, murder and bullying, showing that the differences between the Russian and U.S. dictionaries are gradually disappearing.

In this connection it should be known that, following such fateful events as the explosion it should be known that, following such fateful events as the explosion of the atom bomb, the Korean War and the invention of the transistor, the Soviet Government completely changed the values it held throughout World War II and, along with renouncing its genuine aspirations, embarked on certain deeds which it carried out in Hungary in 1956 and in Czechoslovakia in 1968 with a certain modicum of restraint although now, in 1979, it is carrying out the same deeds with the utmost brazenness and cynicism, and does not feel the least shame that its much vaunted dove of peace is turning into nothing other than a sharp taloned eagle of the U.S. variety.

Was there anything in Iranian-U.S. relations in the era of the deposed shah that does not allow the relations between the Government of Afghanistan and the USSR to be described as a continuation of the same path? At that time the Americans used to plunder our oil and in return they used to sell us machinery and arms; and now the USSR plunders Afghanistan's gas and in return sends machiner, arms and soldiers. At that time the United States assumed responsibility for Iran's security and appointed a puppet to run the show on its behalf and now Russia, under the pretext of safeguarding the security of Afghanistan, has comfortably spread itself throughout that country and has appointed a puppet who does nothing else but play the role of a rubber-stamp. The security brought about by the Americans in Iran was as calm as the atmosphere in graveyards and the Russians, too, are busy creating the same type of security in Afghanistan and are engaged with the utmost seriousness in developing Afghanistan's cemeteries.

But, of course, the Soviet Government deems its military intervention in Afghanistan as being completely lawful and justifies its occupation as being at the request of the Afghan Government. Just like when the United States made a pretext for the occupation of South Vietnam from the invitation extended to it by the government of the time in South Vietnam and just like when the deposed shah made a pretext for military intervention and the crushing of the Dhofari people from the invitation extended to him by Sultan Qabus.

In any event, whatever the main reason for the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, that country has no right to plunder the national riches of the Afghan people. Should it, in the absence of Iranian gas, really need Afghanistan's gas exports, then it should pay a just price in accordance with the world market, something which constitutes one of the lawful rights of the oppressed Afghan nation. Have not the Russians proposed to Iran that it purchase its gas at a price of $130? Then why, now that they are wielding a pair of scissors with one hand and holding the Afghans by the beard with the other, are they buying Afghanistan's gas at $60? Is that country's gas weaker to Iran's or does the nation lack power, so that the gas, just like unclaimed treasures, can fall into the clutches of occupationists who harbor the intention of taking it as booty?

After hearing the report on the sale of Afghan gas to the USSR a (?blind man) said: Maybe this is some clever Soviet tactic in order to subject Iran to propaganda pressure, as it were, and intimate to us that if we do not sell our own gas they will obtain the same from elsewhere at half the price.

No, we will not sell our gas at a lower price than the world price and with the utmost determination we declare that we will burn it before we capitulate to bullying. Lest we forget the ever-recurrent subject of Moscow Radio's talks about Iranian oil, which say nothing less than that we should receive what is rightfully ours from the Americans and we should not sell our oil to them cheaply. But now that we have risen in revolt and wrested our right from those profiteers the heavens could be said to shake in anguish now that it is the turn of the pontificating saints. Now it is up to you to follow your own counsels and not to remain as mere pontificators. If you do not wish to pay for the gas which you took away from Iran during the past 10 years for next to nothing then, at least, do not take away the riches of Afghanistan without the permission of its nation, since you cannot have two sets of values.

Clashes Between Soviets, Afghans

JN270611 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Mar 80 JN

[Text] The PARS NEWS AGENCY quotes the Afghan Islamic Society in Mashhad as saying that the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries clashed with Soviet forces in west Afghanistan.

The Afghan Islamic society spokesman said that the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries killed 1 Soviet soldier and that 13 Afghan soldiers and their weapons joined the Muslim revolutionaries.

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